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Indiana Tourism Office Announces Winners of The Great Indiana Getaway *More Than 3,500 Entries Submitted To Win Getaways*

INDIANAPOLIS – The Indiana Office of Tourism Development is pleased to announce the winners of The Great Indiana Getaway contest. More than 92,000 voters logged on to VisitIndiana.com where they ranked their top three Indiana getaways from a list of 12. Then, more than 3,500 people submitted written entries explaining why they wanted to win one of the getaways. A five-person panel of hospitality and marketing professionals selected the getaway winners:

Holiday World & Splashin' Safari and Evansville

Laura Day, LaPorte, Indiana

French Lick and West Baden

Darrell and Sharon Byerly, Greenville, Indiana

Indiana Beach and Lafayette

Dawn Harper, Fort Wayne, Indiana

Their written entries are available at VisitIndiana.com/greatgetaway.

Each winner receives a three-day, two-night trip for four to their getaway. Winners also receive four RCA Small Wonder digital video recorders to document their trip, four RCA Opal MP3 players, and a \$500 gas card from Circle K. Video clips from each getaway will be posted to VisitIndiana.com in September. All three getaway winners will take their trip between now and September 4. Everyone who entered the contest has a chance to win one of two RCA Small Wonder digital video recorders and one of ten \$100 gas cards from Circle K.

“We are extremely pleased with the enthusiastic response to The Great Indiana Getaway,” said Amy Vaughan, director of the Indiana Office of Tourism Development. “Not only did our Web site, VisitIndiana.com, experience a tremendous increase in the number of visitors, but we also received more than 3,500 entries from people who wanted to spend vacation time in Indiana.”

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During the three weeks of The Great Indiana Getaway from July 5 through July 27, the number of visitors who logged on to VisitIndiana.com nearly tripled from the same time period last year. The amount of time visitors spent on the Web site also increased dramatically from a year ago.

“We hope that people remember VisitIndiana.com as a valuable resource for travel information and trip planning,” said Vaughan. “One goal of this promotion was to make sure everyone, especially Hoosiers, realizes the many great travel destinations located right here in Indiana.”

The five-person panel that selected the winners included: Ray Kavanaugh, Department of Hospitality and Tourism Management, Purdue University; Beth Wood, School of Journalism, Indiana University; Nancy Carlson, Department of Telecommunications, Ball State University; Karen Niverson, Association of Indiana Convention and Visitors Bureaus; and Michael Conner, Indiana Hotel Lodging Association.

The Great Indiana Getaway was presented by the Indiana Office of Tourism Development, Circle K, MediaSauce, and RCA Small Wonder.

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Lt. Governor Becky Skillman oversees the Indiana Office of Tourism Development. Amy Vaughan serves as the agency's Director.

For updates from the Lt. Governor and the agencies she oversees, please sign up at www.in.gov/lgov.